

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

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P R O C E E D I N G S

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, October 25, 1977

10:00 o'clock a.m.

DONALD F. WILLE,
Vice-Chairman,
Presiding

Holiday Inn, I-10
Slidell, Louisiana

Kathryn G. Chamberlin,
Reporter.



Helen R. Dietrich, Inc.
Stenotypists

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P R O C E E D I N G S

. . . The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission convened, pursuant to notice, on Tuesday, October 25, 1977, at 10:00 o'clock a.m., at the Holiday Inn, I-10, Slidell, Louisiana, Donald F. Wille, Vice-Chairman, presiding. . . .

PRESENT WERE:

DONALD F. WILLE, Vice Chairman

MARC DUPUY, JR., Member

J. C. GILBERT, Member

JERRY JONES, Member

J. BURTON ANGELLE, Secretary.

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A G E N D A

1. Approval of minutes of September 27, 1977. (5)

DR. LYLE ST. AMANT

2. Request from Louisiana Materials Co., Inc. (7)

for permit to dredge sand, gravel and/or fill material from the Mississippi River at Mile Posts 177 through 181 AHP at Point Darrow.

3. Request from Louisiana Materials Co., Inc. (8)



for permit to dredge for sand, gravel and/or fill material from the Mississippi River at Mile Posts 131 to 133 AHP; and at Mile Posts 163 to 165 AHP.

4. Request from Lake Providence Dredging Company (9)

for permit to dredge sand and gravel from the Mississippi River at Willow Cutoff, Mile 461 to Mile 463 AHP; and at Fittler Bend, Mile 477.7 to Mile 478.2 AHP.

5. Request from OKC Dredging, Inc. for renewal (11)

of permit for dredging sand and/or fill material from the Mississippi River at Mile 116 AHP to 117 AHP, Fairview Landing near St. Rose, St. Charles Parish, Louisiana.

MR. HARRY SCHAFER

6. Setting oyster season in Calcasieu Lake. (12)

MR. RICHARD YANCEY

7. Fort Polk Military Reservation regulations. (16)

8. Lease on Atchafalaya Delta Wildlife Management (19)
Area.

MR. JOE HERRING



9. Discussion of Nature Trail on Pearl River (30)
Wildlife Management Area.

OTHER BUSINESS

10. Set date for November meeting. (43)
Appreciation to Slidell and St. Tammany (4)
Sportsmen's Leagues.
Recognition of visitors; Commission members (5;
and staff present at meeting. 32)
Discussion of Pearl River WMA and possible (24)
acquisition of additional tract.
Pollution problem in Covington. (38)

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VICE CHAIRMAN DONALD F. WILLE: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. This will be the regular formal meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission being held at Slidell, Louisiana. I think the first thing on the agenda would be to thank the Slidell Sportsmen's League and the St. Tammany Sportsmen's League for the lovely cocktail party and dinner that was given here last night. We do appreciate it. We enjoyed the fellowship, enjoyed the dinner. I can speak for myself and I think the rest of the Commission members and Mr. Angelle, the Secretary.



I think the first thing on the agenda this morning would be the approval of the minutes of September 27, 1977.

MR. JONES: I move.

MR. DUPUY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mr. Dupuy. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Against?

(No response)

None. So noted.

Dr. St. Amant. Oh, just a minute, Harry, before you start, Mr. Angelle would like to recognize some people we have visiting with us today.

SECRETARY J. BURTON ANGELLE: Mr. Chairman, Acting Chairman, and Members of the Commission, ladies and gentlemen, one gentleman I would like to introduce to you, I think you had the opportunity to meet with him last night and recognize him this morning, is a gentleman who serves on the House Natural Resources Committee, a very good friend of Fish and Wildlife, a man that I had the honor of serving with in the legislature, Representative



Ed Scogin. Thank you very much, Ed. We appreciate your being here with us.

(Applause)

Mr. Yancey and I and those who follow the legislature always know that when we need a vote in the House Natural Resources Committee in favor of Fish and Wildlife, we can always count on Ed.

Also I see visiting the President of the Police Jury, Mr. Webb.

MR. M. W. WEBB: I am not President now but I am glad to be here. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Webb. We appreciate your coming.

SECRETARY ANGELLE: I understand he will be the next mayor of Slidell. Maybe we will introduce him that way.

And there are a lot of other visiting dignitaries that I cannot call your name. Maybe you will just get up and introduce yourselves. I just met this fair young lady who drove in from Baton Rouge. Her name is Sarah, she is with the Fiscal Office, going to be looking at our operations. I would also like to tell her and tell the



Commission members and the press, if they are here, that we just completed a 90-day audit by the Legislative Auditor. It took three people 90 days to find out that we had a perfect audit, so that was real great. Larry Cook really knows how to hide things! (Laughter)

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Burt. I appreciate that. Go ahead, Harry, and let it rip.

MR. HARRY SCHAFER: Mr. Chairman, I am handling Dr. St. Amant's business on the agenda. The first on the agenda is a request from Louisiana Materials for a permit to dredge sand and gravel and fill material from the Mississippi River at Mile 178 through 181 AHP at Point Darrow. This request has been researched and we find it in order. I would recommend that the permit be granted for one year for the royalty that should be provided.

MR. DUPUY: I so move.

MR. JONES: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Dupuy, seconded by Mr. Jones. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed?



(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission does hereby grant permis-
sion to LOUISIANA MATERIALS COMPANY,
INC. to dredge for sand, gravel and/or
fill material from the Mississippi
River at Mile 177 through 181 (Point
Darrow) for a period of one year from
October 25, 1977 to October 25, 1978.

MR. SCHAFER: We have another request
from Louisiana Materials, Inc. for a permit to
dredge sand and gravel and fill material from the
Mississippi River at Mile Posts 131 and 133 and at
Mile Posts 163-165 AHP. This has also been re-
searched and meets all the requirements of the
Commission. I would recommend its approval for
one year and for the required amount.

THE CHAIRMAN: O. K., you have heard the



recommendation. Do I hear a motion?

MR. JONES: So move.

MR. DUPUY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mr. Dupuy. All in favor?

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Against?

(No response)

None. So ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to the LOUISIANA MATERIALS COMPANY, INC. to dredge for sand, gravel and/or fill material from the Mississippi River at Miles 163 to 165 AHP and from Miles 131 to 133 AHP, for a period of one year from October 25, 1977 to October 25, 1978.

MR. SCHAFER: We have a request from the



Lake Providence Dredging Company for a permit to remove sand and gravel from the Mississippi River at Willow Cutoff at Miles 463 to 461 AHP and at Fitler Bend, Miles 477 and 478 AHP. This meets all the requirements of the Commission and I would recommend its approval for one year and for the royalty provided.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do I have a motion?

MR. DUPUY: I will move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. GILBERT: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Dupuy, seconded by Mr. Gilbert. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed?

(No response)

So be it.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to the LAKE PROVIDENCE



DREDGING COMPANY to remove sand and gravel from the Mississippi River at Willow Cutoff, Miles 463 to 461 AHP, and at Fidler Bend, Miles 477.7 to 478.2 AHP, for a period of one year from October 25, 1977 to October 25, 1978.

MR. SCHAFER: The last request for a permit is from the OKC Dredging, Inc. for a renewal permit for dredging sand and fill material from the Mississippi River at Mile 116 and Mile 117 AHP, at Fairview Landing near St. Rose, St. Charles Parish. We find that this meets all the requirements of the Commission and therefore I would recommend the renewal of this permit for one year with the required fees.

THE CHAIRMAN: Motion?

MR. JONES: So move.

MR. DUPUY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mr. Dupuy. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed?



(No response)

So be it.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission does hereby grant per-
mission to the OKC DREDGING, INC.
for renewal of their permit expiring
November 23, 1977, to remove fill
material from the Mississippi River
at Mile 116 AHP to 117 AHP, Fairview
Landing near St. Rose, St. Charles
Parish, Louisiana, for a period of one
year from November 23, 1977 to
November 23, 1978, at a royalty rate
of five cents per cubic yard.

THE CHAIRMAN: Harry, go ahead and give
us the oyster season.

MR. SCHAFER: Mr. Chairman, as you remem-
ber, we set the oyster season for Calcasieu Lake
last meeting and we found that we had run afoul



of the Public Information Act and we could not meet the requirements for the opening that we had set for November 14 and we therefore are recommending that this season begin under the same rules and regulations that were passed at last month's meeting but opening on November 21. I would recommend this change.

MR. JONES: So move.

MR. DUPUY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Dupuy. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed?

(No response)

Hearing no opposition, the motion passes.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Commission biologists and the Chief of the Seafood Division have recommended the fishing of the oysters in Calcasieu Lake with the exception of the Calcasieu River and



Ship Channel, East Fork, West Fork,
and Oyster Bayou, and

WHEREAS, the State Department
of Health will examine the growing
oysters of this aforementioned area
and approve the waters for fishing
oysters if the health standards are
met,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission that the Calcasieu Lake
Oyster Season for 1977-78 be set in
accordance with the following rules
and regulations:

- (1) That the oyster season in
Calcasieu Lake be fixed to
extend from one-half hour before
sunrise on Monday, November 21,
1977 through one-half hour after
sunset on Friday, March 31, 1978,
with the right being reserved to
extend said season or close it
sooner if biologically justifiable.



- (2) That oyster fishing be limited only to the use of tongs and to daylight hours.
- (3) The open areas shall be confined to the area of Calcasieu Lake, with the exception of Calcasieu River and Ship Channel, East Fork, West Fork and Oyster Bayou which shall be closed.
- (4) The three-inch culling law shall be observed by all fishermen fishing the area and the culls shall be returned to the fishing area reefs to provide for future harvesting.
- (5) All oysters shall be put into sacks before leaving the oyster fishing area in Calcasieu Lake. Oysters not in sacks leaving the fishing area in Calcasieu Lake shall be confiscated and violator subject to penalty set forth in Title 56, Section 115.



- (6) The taking of oysters for commercial purposes shall be limited to 15 sacks per boat per day.
- (7) The taking of oysters for home consumption shall be limited to three bushels (two sacks) per boat per day.
- (8) All commercial fishing of oysters shall be done only with proper licenses, and the sacks of oysters be properly tagged before leaving fishing vessel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary be and is hereby authorized and empowered to extend or close said season and increase or decrease limit, if biologically sound.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Yancey.

MR. YANCEY: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, the first item I have on the agenda pertains to hunting regulations on the Fort Polk Military Reservation over in southwest Louisiana.

Following the withdrawal of the Forest



Service lands from the Commission's Wildlife Management Area program, this then resulted in different regulations applying to the southern half of the Fort Polk Military Reservation as compared to the northern half of the Fort Polk Military Reservation. We have met with the Army and they would, of course, like to have the same hunting regulations apply to the entire military reservation, so we would recommend to the Commission that a resolution be adopted that would prescribe that all lands within the Fort Polk Military Reservation apply as previously set up by the Commission for the portion of the military reservation that is in the Wildlife Management Area.

This is a map of the reservation as a whole. The red line encompasses the Fort Polk Wildlife Management Area and the blue line represents the southern boundary of the military reservation. We would recommend that the Commission adopt a resolution here that would prescribe that the same regulations apply for the whole area as now apply for the Management Area.

Of course, we have got an excellent



population of deer and turkey and squirrel and rabbits and what-have-you on this property and it affords a lot of public hunting opportunity, but from the standpoint of management and uniformity and clarification, we need to do that, so we would recommend that a resolution be adopted.

THE CHAIRMAN: Fine. Are you going to draw up the resolution, Dick?

MR. YANCEY: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do I have a motion?

MR. DUPUY: I so move.

MR. JONES: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Dupuy, seconded by Mr. Jones. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

So moved.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the hunting regulations previously prescribed for the



Fort Polk Wildlife Management Area differ from those now in effect for those lands located on the Fort Polk Military Reservation that are located outside of the Fort Polk WMA boundary, and

WHEREAS, for purposes of uniformity, better wildlife management on the military reservation as a whole, and for the purpose of standardizing hunting regulations on the entire military reservation,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby establish hunting regulations on the Fort Polk military reservation as a whole to be identical to those previously prescribed for the Fort Polk WMA.

MR. YANCEY: The next item that I have relates to the establishment of a Wildlife Management Area that would encompass some 125,000 acres of lands and waters in Atchafalaya Bay south of



Morgan City. What we have in this part of the state is a new delta that is rapidly forming off the mouth of the Atchafalaya River and it is going to become one of Louisiana's most important wildlife areas. It is already used extensively by large numbers of migratory waterfowl. We have large numbers of furbearers already establishing themselves on these lands. Eventually we will even have deer out there.

The delta now occupies about 12,000 acres of marshes there and it is rapidly building. By 1990 it will include another 8,000 or 10,000, and probably by the end of this century a great percentage of this area will be in delta marshes, which are, as we all know, some of the most prolific producers of wildlife on the continent. Anywhere you find a delta marsh, you always find large quantities and a variety and abundance of wildlife.

What has been done in this regard is that during the 1977 legislature Act 565 became law and it authorized the Department of Natural Resources, which now includes the old State Land



Office, to lease this tract of land and water to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for purposes of establishing a new Wildlife Management Area. We have a lease form that has been drawn up. It provides that the Department would have a 25-year free lease on this area to manage it as a Wildlife Management Area.

Of course, there are stipulations in there that track Act 565, which prescribe that the operations for navigation and flood control would not in any way be infringed upon by our program out there. This will create a new big, important Wildlife Management Area for the state, and we would like to recommend to the Commission that you approve of the 25-year lease agreement and the signing of that lease by Mr. Angelle to set up this game management area.

Now we will have to go one step after the lease and that is have a Governor's proclamation that would set it up as a management area.

MR. DUPUY: Dick, why a 25-year limit?

MR. YANCEY: There is no particular reason for that. It was just a standard period of



time that we have been leasing other state lands. Of course, periodically these are renewed, as they begin to expire, and we present them at the end of this 25-year period. It will probably be renewed again.

MR. DUPUY: It will be a complete delta and probably very much more valuable in 25 years.

MR. YANCEY: That's right. As it grows it is going to become increasingly valuable. Last year there were about 85,000 ducks that wintered on these delta marshes, along with several thousand geese, and that population is going to continue to grow, along with mink and otter and nutria and deer and all forms of wading birds and marsh wildlife.

MR. DUPUY: If it is not too late, I would like to see more time on it, 50 years, 99 years.

MR. YANCEY: Well, we can inquire about that. The lease form calls for 25 but we can certainly look into that possibility.

THE CHAIRMAN: That's a good point, Marc.

MR. DUPUY: It may be much more difficult to renew at the end of 25 years.



THE CHAIRMAN: I think a motion would be in order that we go ahead and empower the Director to negotiate the thing and if he can get more time, please do it.

MR. YANCEY: And if not, then we will just proceed with the 25-year lease.

MR. JONES: I so move.

MR. GILBERT: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mr. Gilbert. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed?

(No response)

Passed.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, Act 565 of the regular session of the Legislature of 1977 authorized the leasing of approximately 125,000 acres of land and water in Atchafalaya Bay to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries



for the purpose of establishing the Atchafalaya Delta Wildlife Management Area, and

WHEREAS, a lease agreement form has been drafted by the Department of Natural Resources covering a 25-year period beginning upon execution of the lease, and

WHEREAS, other stipulations have been incorporated to conform with Act 565,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby approve of the execution of this lease by the Secretary, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that efforts be made to have the lease extend for more than 25 years.

MR. YANCEY: You know, while we are on the subject of wildlife management areas and because of the next item coming up on the agenda,



I would like to mention one or two facts relating to one of the most important Wildlife Management Areas that we have in Louisiana, and that is the Pearl River Area.

At the time we were working in this area and explaining the purpose and the possibilities and the potential of that project, one of the greatest supporters that we had in this area was Ed Scogin. He was on the police jury at that time and I think without his support, I doubt if that project would have become a reality. He is here and I wanted to mention that fact. Of course, one of the reasons it has been a success also is because I think we just got an outstanding man to run that project for us, and that is Al Frierson. He is the Area manager that works for the Department out there and has done an outstanding job.

I thought those two people should certainly be recognized for their efforts.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Dick. This might be an appropriate time to ask Mr. Scogin if he has anything he would like to say, any words of wisdom. Mr. Scogin, if you want to come up to the



mike.

MR. EDWARD C. SCOGIN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission. Thank you very much, Dick Yancey, for those kind words. Of course, that is very important to us and it has enjoyed a phenomenal success, not only from the standpoint that you gentlemen are interested in but it has had a tremendous economic impact on the area.

I am not too familiar with the amount of use that other Wildlife Management Areas get but I will guarantee you this one gets a tremendous amount. As you know, we are contiguous to Orleans and Jefferson Parishes and while a lot of those people who come to use it have a lot to learn -- (Laughter) -- it still gets a tremendous amount of use both at the local level and at that level.

If you would permit me, I would like to stress to you the importance in our minds, the people of St. Tammany Parish and the surrounding area, if and when we are able, the possibility of acquiring the 8,100-acre Iwana tract. I have a signed contract. The deal is put together if we



can just get the money. As you probably know, and I know Mr. Ensminger, who is here, knows, it has been under a management program all these many years and it is fine habitat for wild fowl and many of the other things that you mentioned earlier there in the Atchafalaya Basin, Dick. I will be meeting with the Governor again concerning the thing inside, I think, of the next two weeks.

Following the lead of Burt Angelle, I have written the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation as it relates to matching funds, which are now as you know handled through the department of Recreation, Tourism, Culture and what-not. If we can get those matching funds, I think maybe we can get the Governor moving as it relates to the funds from our level. That would make this an area that has a great hardwood, bottomland, upland, swampland and then a great wild fowl hunting area. It is really something that we need to be looking at and if we can get the amount of money that I am trying to get, I think probably you would have enough to do the things that you have to do when you acquire land, like the marking I was speaking



of last night, the survey, et cetera, those types of things. It would take about \$2 million. That is what we need to get. We would certainly appreciate any efforts by the Commission to assist us in that matter.

Again, thank you very much for allowing me to be with you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Ed, we appreciate you coming up and I want you to know that Brother Angelle here is working hot and heavy on that project. He hasn't forgotten about it and we were not going to bring it up at the meeting today but we are working on it. We are all aware of it and I think under the guidance of Burton here you will probably get something done.

MR. SCOGIN: Burt keeps in close touch with me. I get copies of his letters.

THE CHAIRMAN: If I didn't know better, I would think he had underworld connections in Baton Rouge! (Laughter)

MR. SCOGIN: He is very well liked up there, most of the time!

The only other thing is, and I think that



has been satisfactorily resolved, I wrote a letter some while back. I had received several complaints about the establishment of a doe season in a particular area of this parish as it relates to the Beau Chene Hunting Club, and I think that has been resolved. I have been convinced that probably a doe season is not going to be as harmful as perhaps some people thought it was going to be in that particular area.

Again, thank you very much.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ed. We appreciate it.

(Applause)

MR. DUPUY: Representative Scogin, if we cannot buy by cash, we certainly want to explore the possibility of buying on credit.

MR. SCOGIN: Good idea. You and I discussed that last night and inasmuch as the state operates that way in every other phase, I don't know why we can't.

MR. JONES: I saw a sign yesterday that I think might be appropriate there. It said, "Easy Credit. A third down and the rest now!"

(Laughter)



THE CHAIRMAN: Very good, Jerry. Joe, it looks like you are up and you have got a hell of an act to follow.

MR. HERRING: When you say it is a hard act to follow, it is, because the Pearl River has been talked about and so what Mr. Yancey has already discussed, we won't say too much more about that, but about the first of the year the Sierra Club did meet with the Commission and ask that we establish a nature trail on our Pearl River Wildlife Management Area, and this has been done now.

The nature trail is pretty well labeled. They have put out a little booklet on it, with the help of Robert Murray who represented the Sierra Club and Mr. David Moreland, and he is back here with Al Frierson and them. We had a lot to do with it out of our Baton Rouge office there, the biologists there, and also Keith Hempstader and Mark Bible and some others who work around Pearl River.

The book is pretty complete we feel like right now. This is supposed to last a little over a year and then we hope to revise it, put in any suggestions that the people who use the area would



like to give us. We are asking for those in the book, where to send them. The center of the little booklet has a map of a portion of the Pearl River Wildlife Management Area, showing where the nature trail on this area is located.

As I said, it is labeled with kind of rustic little redwood signs and some cypress in there so it will look more nature-like. We are having some problems in there occasionally. We do have hogs on the area and unfortunately the hogs knock our signs down. Talking to Al, some of the hunting season has taken a few out of those out this time.

In the booklet it explains why we set up the nature trail, some of the rules and regulations we have on it, and then some 60-odd plants that are found on this nature trail. The next time we revise it, we will probably put in some of the birds and mammals and other things that can be seen. This wouldn't be anything you could assure people of but they would be available at different seasons of the year on their migratory routes through here, and we would include that.



So, if anyone has any suggestions on it to use the nature trail, we would like to invite everyone out. We had planned a field trip but since it turned out pretty rainy yesterday and a little muddy, we cancelled that, but maybe this group will invite us back again sometime in the near future and we will have the field trip there next time. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Joe. We appreciate that. The name of that Honey Island, as I remarked to Burt, looks almost good enough to eat, doesn't it?

If there is no further business in front of the Commission, is there anybody who would like to speak that has not come up before the Commission? Is there anybody who would like to say anything? I want to ask Mr. Webb, the juryman, would you like to say a few words, sir?

MR. WEBB HART: I am Webb Hart, a member of the Police Jury of St. Tammany, and I want to express my appreciation to the Slidell Sportsmen's League and the St. Tammany Sportsmen's League for taking the initiative in inviting your group to



Slidell to hold your meeting here, and to express our appreciation to you for coming. We think you are doing a great job and if you will assist Mr. Scogin and push through the Iwana property, we will really love you for it.

This is a beautiful book. Whoever is responsible for that, I really want to commend them. It looks like a really nice project and we are proud of it and we appreciate the things you have done for our area. Thanks again to the Slidell Sportsmen's League and the St. Tammany Sportsmen's League. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Webb. We appreciate your coming up and speaking.

I would like, just for those of you that don't know the Commission here, to introduce the Commission members. I called the roll this morning but I didn't point out anybody.

To my left, who has been on the Commission for 12 years, Mr. Jerry Jones out of Cameron, Louisiana. Of course, I think everybody who was here last night knows our beloved Secretary, Mr. Angelle, who is a really swell guy and has done a



fine job. Then to my right is one of our better known Commission members who has been on the Commission longer than I have, I know, Mr. Marc Dupuy and he is out of Marksville, Louisiana. Then to my far right is Mr. Sonny Gilbert, former Senator Gilbert, who is the newest member of our Commission and who is from Sicily Island, Louisiana.

Now I would also like, we have various department chiefs within the audience here and various of our staff members. I would like for each one of you to stand up and introduce yourself to the audience here, if you don't mind. We can start out with Mr. Yancey.

(Whereupon, the Commission staff members in attendance introduced themselves.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir.

MR. HANK FERRER: I am Hank Ferrer, President of the St. Tammany Sportsmen's League and it is a pleasure to appear here before the Commission today. As I said last night, it is our privilege and honor to have you gentlemen here in our Parish, and certainly we are very proud of



the work that you have done with the wildlife and the outdoors.

One only has to look at the brochure this year to see the things that are going on in the state of Louisiana. When I think about the 30's and the 40's and the 50's and even the 60's, as compared to what is happening in the 70's, this brochure that is put out by your department and the staff, Mr. Angelle and his staff and the Commission, is one for the records. It is the finest I have seen in my lifetime.

When I grew up, you couldn't find a deer or a turkey, a bear, you couldn't shoot a woodcock or a snipe. Those things were all closed. It is because of the work of you gentlemen and you people in the Enforcement Division and people like we have here representing us now, Mr. Ed Scogin. If we had more like Mr. Ed in Baton Rouge, I think we would get even greater things done for the Wildlife and Fisheries Department in this state. We are blessed in St. Tammany Parish with an abundance of wildlife and certainly it is due to the efforts of you gentlemen.



We appreciate what the biologists do with wildlife populations, the game management areas. The Enforcement Division, Mr. Gillespie, I have been involved in that over the years to get more agents and I have been assured by Mr. Strain and Mr. Scogin and I think Mr. Angelle is in accord that St. Tammany will be getting possibly two more enforcement agents which we encourage and are hopeful that they will be forthcoming. I understand they have already been tested and screened and so we are on the up-move in that area.

The restocking programs, I was telling Kenneth Smith we are catching striped bass in the different local waterways. We are going to add them to our list of species in the rodeos next year.

We all have a lot to be thankful for, and certainly the Louisiana CONSERVATIONIST magazine is as fine a publication as you could find anywhere in the nation. I am sure that I put on my questionnaire last year that we should begin to charge for this to see if we can't maybe cover a part of the expenses. The people who are truly



interested shouldn't mind giving a dollar or two a year for that fine publication. When we do get to that point where we don't have funds to publish that, and I don't know what it costs but I know it costs a lot, I think that is another source of revenue we could turn to.

I do appreciate the fine work that is going on with that magazine. I just wish you'd put me on the mailing list. After six years, I have asked to get on the mailing list. Joe Herring said he is going to see that I get first on the list. My librarian gets two copies and she gives one to me each month, though, when it comes out, so I do get a copy but it doesn't come to my house.

But materials like this that were put out today, and the other materials that are forthcoming from this Department, it is a new program. It is an educational program. I have appeared, for instance, before the Rotary Clubs in Covington and Mandeville on a few occasions and shown them some of these materials put out by this Department. The work that you are doing is excellent. I did want to throw a few bouquets at you this morning.



We do appreciate it.

I have one point of business I want to go on record to state, and that is we would like for the Wildlife and Fisheries to look into, at least, the pollution, the human waste that is flowing into the Little Tchefuncte there in Covington, which is a scenic waterway, by the City of Covington. It has been flowing in there from way before the river was proclaimed a scenic waterway. The other one is the Big Bogue Falaya which crosses right as you enter Covington. I know that those of you that know Covington know it. The State Park right there in Covington has been closed down for two years. That is Bogue Falaya Wayside Park. It is a fine little park. I served as lifeguard there ten years back in the 50's and I enjoyed every minute of it. Many thousands of people from New Orleans have enjoyed that park over the years, and it has been closed for two solid years because that waterway is polluted with human waste.

Now, I don't know just what you gentlemen can do to give us a little help. I have asked Bill Strain and I don't know what Ed can do on the



state level. I know it is a Department of Health problem but I would like to go on record requesting some help for some investigation into the situation. Covington is aware of the problem. They have studied it. In fact, they spent \$120,000 last year studying the problem. I just hope that we can get some help there.

We do appreciate everything you are doing, gentlemen and I thank you for coming and thank you for your time.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. We appreciate your coming up.

SECRETARY ANGELLE: Hank, what has been your response from the Health Department, dealing with this human waste problem?

MR. FERRER: So far we haven't had any. They just closed the park, the park is officially closed. The Health Department has officially closed the park in Covington for two years. There are signs in the park that say, "Water Polluted. No Swimming." They are not allowing bathers in the park in any manner, shape or form.

Now, just below the park, about a mile



downstream, and certainly water skiers and bathers come in from other launch areas and come upstream and ski through there or swim in there, but they can't enter through the main gate, but you can't keep them from using it.

Now just down below there is a public launch called Menetre Park, which is in the City limits where we launch to fish, but people constantly use it and go up and use the beaches on the weekend and swim in the waterways or ski in the waterways, and there are no signs down that way.

MR. DUPUY: It isn't polluted downstream, is it?

MR. FERRER: Well, all outside waters have some pollution in them. I am not a Board of Health man but a Board of Health man told me that one time. All exterior waters, all outside waters, have some pollution in them. I don't know how dangerous those waters are, but it is being used from Covington all the way down to the lake at Madisonville, which is some 12 miles from Covington by water. I often wondered, you know, how people



could swim just a little bit downstream from it and not be concerned and the Department of Health hasn't put any signs up, but they are aware of it now.

MR. DUPUY: Hank, the study that the City of Covington has made, the \$120,000 study, are the results available?

MR. FERRER: I have not seen them. The EPA has been informed. They are cognizant of this problem also. I appeared before the town Council last February and asked them for some help. The Sportsmen's League there in Covington is threatening to enter a suit with the City Council to do something. Of course, once you do that, you get into an entanglement with them and, you know, the mayor of Covington is one of our Sportsmen's League members, and some of those on the Council are members of the Sportsmen's League, and you really hate to get into litigation with those people. They in turn are planning to upgrade Menetre Park, this boat launch just down the way, so we are not going to do anything until they upgrade Menetre Park. We don't want to get into a



suit against them, let's put it that way. Does that answer the question? Is there another question?

MR. DUPUY: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Hank. Appreciate it.

MR. SCHAFER: Mr. Dupuy had asked me last night after this problem came up to check with the Health Department. I did call Mr. Charles Bishop this morning. I spoke with him and he said it has been closed for two years because of bacterial count, that there is a plan to correct this. It is in Step Two, whatever Step Two means. He says you are looking at least a two-year relief on this thing, that this thing should be in line in about two years, but they are not too sure that even with this new sewage treatment thing that the storm sewage runoff is going to correct the problem, that there might be occasional closures even after that, because of the storm sewer runoff.

Mr. Bishop is in charge of the environmental section, water quality, of the Health Department and he is aware of the problem and he



said, when I asked him was there any other place we could go to, to try and get some relief of this, he said no, it was under his jurisdiction, that the feds had nothing to do with it at this time, and that is about the story up to now.

MR. DUPUY: Other than the storm problems or excess drainage and runoff problems, did he indicate that perhaps day-to-day normal usage would be accommodated by that?

MR. SCHAFER: After the sewerage plant is on line, he felt that except for after a heavy rain and a heavy runoff from the metropolitan area of Covington that it could be used under normal conditions.

MR. DUPUY: At least that will be an improvement if not a complete solution. Thank you very much, Harry.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Harry, for those remarks. Do we have any more business to come before the Commission at this time?

MR. JONES: I move we set the November meeting for the 14th and 15th in New Orleans, and the December meeting the 12th and 13th in New



Orleans and the January meeting for the 26th and 27th in New Orleans.

MR. DUPUY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Dupuy. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: So ordered. There being no further business, are there any other comments from the audience?

MR. JONES: Move we adjourn.

THE CHAIRMAN: We stand adjourned.

. . . Whereupon, at 11 o'clock
a.m. on Tuesday, October 25,
1977, the meeting was adjourned. . . .

Kathryn G. Chamberlin,
Reporter.



C E R T I F I C A T E

I, the undersigned reporter, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing (44 pages of typewritten matter) is a true and correct transcription of the tape recording and of the stenographic notes of the proceedings herein, transcribed by me, at the time and place hereinbefore noted.

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 9th day of November, 19 77.

Kathryn G. Chamberlin
Kathryn G. Chamberlin,
Reporter.

